



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Indiana Division

575 North Pennsylvania Street, Room 254  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

January 31, 2005

HDA-IN

Mrs. Vaneeta Kumar  
Deputy Commissioner  
Planning and Intermodal Transportation  
Indiana Department of Transportation  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Attention: Mrs. Janice Osadcuk

Dear Mrs. Kumar:

We have received the final report for the US 36 Danville EA/Corridor Study, dated December 16, 2004, as prepared for INDOT by its consultant, Edwards and Kelcey. This study evaluates the purpose and need and alternatives for the US 36 corridor, which begins at approximately the east edge of Center Township and ends at approximately the west edge of Center Township in Hendricks County, Indiana. After reviewing the final report, along with purpose & need and preliminary alternatives analysis documentation, the Federal Highway Administration, Indiana Division finds the following:

- The overall purpose and need for the US 36 Danville Corridor and the alternatives analysis is acceptable;
- The one Section of Independent Utility (SIU) consisting of constructing US 36 on new alignment established through the study is appropriately designated;
- The level of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for the SIU will be an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze in detail the two alternatives identified for further study; and
- Individual localized highway improvements can be considered independently to improve localized traffic flow and safety but would not satisfy this purpose and need established for this project.

Finally, we believe INDOT, in this study, has accomplished what was envisioned under the streamlined environmental process for EA/corridor studies. We recommend that, in future studies, Agency Coordination Meeting minutes be distributed in a much more timely manner following the meetings to allow the agencies to respond appropriately.



The information developed in this Final EA/Corridor study will be incorporated into the Draft EIS. The FHWA will prepare a Notice of Intent to begin the development of that document.

Please contact Tony DeSimone at 317-226-5307 if you have questions or need further assistance. Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ ANTHONY M. DESIMONE

Robert F. Tally, Jr., P.E.  
Division Administrator

cc:

Vaneeta Kumar, INDOT IGC-N755

✓ Steve Smith, INDOT IGC-N901

Ms Virginia Laszewski, Environmental Review Section, U.S. EPA, Region 5

Mr. Scott Pruitt, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Ms. Christie Kiefer, Environmental Coordinator, Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Ms. Lori Kaplan, Commissioner, Indiana Department of Environmental Management

DOA, U.S. Army Engineer District, Louisville, Corps of Engineer, Indianapolis Field Office